

but does not comprise the protein, wherein the change results in the selection of the modulator.

2. (Twice Amended) A method as claimed in Claim 1 wherein before the treating step the migration activity is absent or reduced relative to a wild type individual.

3. (Twice Amended) A method as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the treating step restores or enhances the migration activity.

4. (Twice Amended) A method as claimed in Claim 1 wherein before the treating step the migration activity is at a level of a wild type individual.

5. (Twice Amended) A method as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the treating step reduces the migration activity.

6. (Amended Three Times) A method as claimed in Claim 1, the protein being selected from the group consisting of a protein encoded by a native polynucleotide sequence, a protein encoded by a heterologous polynucleotide sequence introduced under transcriptional control of an active promoter into the nematode, a protein that shares at least 20% amino acid sequence identity in the metalloprotease and thrombospondin domains with either of the foregoing and that retains functional metalloprotease and thrombospondin domains, and a chimeric protein that retains functional metalloprotease and thrombospondin domains.

7. A method as claimed in Claim 6, wherein the native polynucleotide sequence is SEQ ID NO:1.

8. A method as claimed in Claim 6, wherein the heterologous polynucleotide sequence is a homolog of SEQ ID NO:1.

9. A method as claimed in Claim 8 wherein the homolog of SEQ ID NO:1 encodes a metalloprotease enzyme selected from the group consisting of murine ADAMTS-1 protein, bovine procollagen-1 N-proteinase, and human aggrecan-degrading metalloprotease.

10. (Amended) A method as claimed in Claim 6 wherein the protein is a truncated form of a protein in a wild type individual.

13. A method as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the at least one modulator is selected from the group consisting of a nucleic acid molecule, a protein molecule, a sugar, a lipid, an organic molecule, a synthetic or natural pharmaceutical agent, and a mixture thereof.

14. (New) A method as claimed in Claim 6 wherein before the treating step the cell is not under the influence of the protein.

15. (New) A method as claimed in Claim 14 wherein the modulator is a nucleic acid molecule that encodes the protein.

16. (New) A method as claimed in Claim 14 wherein the modulator is the protein.